

Message Text

SECRET

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21

ACTION SS-25

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P R 270832Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6809
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T SEOUL 3106

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: US, KS, UNGA, PFOR
SUBJECT: KOREAN QUESTION AT 31ST UNGA

REF: STATE 99565

1. DRAWING FROM REFTEL INSTRUCTION AMBASSADOR INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTER PARK APRIL 27 THAT WE DO NOT BELIEVE ROKS SHOULD TAKE INITIATIVE ON FOUR POWER CONFERENCE PROPOSAL. MOREOVER, WE THOUGHT THAT ANY RESTATEMENT SHOULD BE MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR APPROACH TO UNGA, THEREFORE WE CONSIDERED IT PREFERABLE TO DEFER RESTATMENT UNTIL SOME LATER DATE, WHEN IT WOULD HAVE OPTIMUM IMPACT ON UNGA HANDLING KOREAN ITEM. PARK ACCEDED TO THIS, COMMENTING THAT ROKG WOULD NOT INSIST ON THIS

2. AMBASSADOR ALSO BRIEFLY REVIEWED OTHER POINTS REFTEL, UNDERSCORING AGAIN CENTRAL POINT SECRETARY MADE TO PARK TONG-JIN WHEN LATTER WAS IN WASHINGTON. PARK COMMENTED IN RESPONSE THAT ROKG WAS OF COURSE PREPARED TO MEET NORTH KOREAN CHALLENGE AT UNGA; HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT TURN THE OTHER CHEEK, IN FACT THEY WOULD KICK BACK HARD AT NORTH KOREA. ONLY QUESTION BETWEEN US WAS HOW BEST TO MEET THE CHALLENGE. AFTER ANALYZING REACTIONS FROM CURRENT ROUND OF APPROACHES TO NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, PLUS ANY PERTINENT RESULTS OF SECRETARY'S TRIP TO AFRICA, PARK THOUGHT

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WE WOULD HAVE BETTER IDEA OF PROSPECTS AND BETTER

BASIS FOR DECIDING ON TACTICS. PARK THEN SUGGESTED
CORE MEMBERS HOLD ANOTHER MEETING IN NEW YORK WHEN
THESE RETURNS WERE IN. IN MEANTIME PARK SAID WE SHOULD
CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSIONS. AT ONE POINT IN CONVERSATION
HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT WE THINK ABOUT TEXT OF A POSSIBLE
FRIENDLY RESOLUTION.

3. COMMENT: WHILE FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED NO
CHANGE IN ROKG APPROACH TO UNGA QUESTION, HIS STATEMENTS
THAT ROK WOULD STRONGLY COMBAT NORTH KOREAN EFFORTS, PLUS
HIS EFFORT TO MINIMIZE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US
AND HIS SUGGESTION THAT WE THINK ABOUT TEXT OF
POSSIBLE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION MAY FORESHADOW SOME GIVE
ON KOREAN PART.
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